Export shares in GVCs

Countries create (and capture) value added in domestic markets as well as foreign markets (through exports). In an era of GVCs, gross export market are however less meaningful in measuring the international performance of countries. National economies increasingly specialise in specific activities (assembly, logistics, R&D, etc.) instead of entire industries within GVCs. Because of the international dispersion of productive activities across countries and the uneven distribution of value along the value chain, export shares in value added terms are more accurate indicators of countries' competitiveness in the global economy.

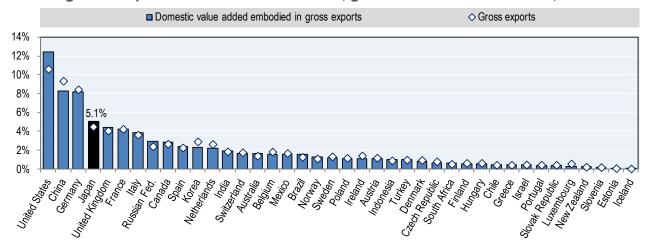


Figure 5. Export shares⁶ across countries, gross and value added terms, 2009

- Japan was the fourth largest exporting economy in 2009 in value added terms, with a slightly higher share of world exports in value added terms (5.1%) than in gross terms (4.5%) (Figure 5).
- Several of Japan's manufacturing industries like chemicals, basic metals, machinery, electrical and transport equipment show larger export shares in value added than in gross terms, illustrating the relatively high domestic value added content in these sectors compared to that in other countries (Figure 6). Value added and gross export shares in services sectors are roughly the same, except in transport and telecommunication services.

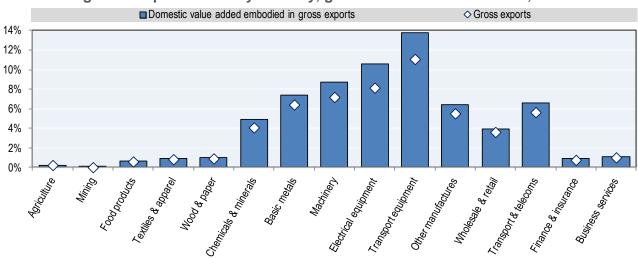


Figure 6. Export shares by industry, gross and value added terms, 2009

Note: 6) Exports include intermediate, capital as well as final products, hence this indicator provides additional insights into the export activities of countries within GVCs, complementary to the GVC participation index discussed above.